UNICEF's Report on Child and Bonded Labour

1590. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children forced to labour in hazardous units and number of bonded labourers in the country as per UNICEF's annual report entitled "state of the world's children";

(b) the steps taken for elimination of child labour rising in the country, particularly in urban areas; and

(c) the stringent anti-child labour laws proposed to be introduced to tackle the problem of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) According to the latest report of UNICEF titled "Status of the World's Children-1997" there are about 250 million working children in the world. Half of these children can be found in Asia alone. While no specific mention has been made in the Report about the total number of working children in India, it has been indicated that about 50,000 children are working in glass bangle industry in Firozabad. The Report also refers to the prevalence of bonded child labour in India in agriculture, carpet, match-making, cigarette-rolling, plate and silk industry.

(b) and (c) Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. However, in the first instance the rehabilitation of child labour in hazardous occupations has been taken. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, is currently in operation under which the employment of children is prohibited in seven occupations and eighteen processes contained in parts A and B of the schedule to the Act.

Employers employing children in the prohibited occupations and processes are liable to be prosecuted under the Act. There are also provisions in various other labour laws safeguarding the interest of working children. Apart from legal measures, government have taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of working children in hazardous occupations. 76 child labour projects have been set up for rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. These child labour projects are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools.

Outcome of the Seminar on Child Labour by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute

1591. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Seminar on child labour was organised by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held in the seminar and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated plans and programmes to combat child labour in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A Seminar on child labour was Organised by the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, on 27th January, 1997. It was attended by the chairpersons and Project Directors of the National Child Labour Projects, NGOs, trade unions, employers' organisations and the representatives of ILO and UNICEF. The important recommendations made in the seminar included, inter alia, health

checkup of all children attending special schools, introduction of appropriate vocational stream in the special schools, proactive role by trade unions in the elimination of child labour and effective enforcement of child labour related laws in the child labour endemic areas.

(c) and (d) Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. However, the rehabilitation child labour working in hazardous occupations has been taken up in the first instance. National Child Labour Projects have been set up in the child labour endemic states for the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations. So far a child labour projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children. These child labour projects are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools under the projects.

System of secret ballot for determining collective bargaining agency

1592. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had committed through common Minimum Programme that Government for the purpose of determining collective bargaining agency would introduce the system of secret ballot;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to implement the secret ballot; and

(c) by when Government wishes to complete the process?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Certain Central Trade Union Organisations submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister urging the Government to frame suitable legislation for recognition of trade unions by Secret Ballot. The issue of determination of the representative character of Trade Unions by Secret Ballot has been referred to the Bipartite Committee constituted by the Ministry of Labour and consisting of representatives of employees and workers. Further course of action will depend on the recommendation of the committee.

देश में खनिज संपदा के लिए सर्वेक्षण

1593. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय भू-वैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (जी०एस०आई०) द्वारा गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में खनिज भंडार की कोई सर्वेक्षण कराया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कौन-कौन से खनिज कहां-कहां पाए गए हैं और उनका राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) देश में खनिजों की खोज और लीज के लिए विदेशी कंपनियों से कितने प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार बेशकीमती खनिजों के खनन का कार्य भी विदेशी कंपनियों को सौंपने का विचार रखती है;

(ङ) सरकार द्वारा आगामी पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि के दौरान इन खनिजों की खोज के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठाये जाने का विचार है;

(च) क्या इन क्षेत्रों को निजी क्षेत्र को सौंपने से पहले संबंधित राज्य सरकारों से विचार-विमर्श किया गया था; और

(छ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य) (क) और (ख): जी हां, खनिजों का राज्यवार ब्यौरा विवरण में दिया है। (नीचे देखिए)।

(ग) विदेशी निवेश उन्नयन बोर्ड (एफ आई पी बी) ने खनन/धातु विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में निवेश के लिए 33 प्रस्तावों को मंजूरी दे दी है जिनमें से केन्द्र सरकार को पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस/खनन पट्टे के लिए 4 प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं। पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस (पीएल) तथा खनन पट्टे (एमएल) खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 के प्रावधानों तथा उनके अंतर्गत बनाए गए नियमों के अनुसार दिये जाते है। खनिज रियायतें देने के लिए संबंधित राज्य सरकारों को आवेदन देने होते हैं जो खनिज रियायत अधिकार देने में सक्षम